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FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE REPORT

FROM : OTTAWA

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REPORT NO.

TO : DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON

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SUBJECT: U.S. Congressmen Visit Winnipeg

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CIA-4

PRB-2

ARMY-4

Congressmen Fred Marshall and H. Carl Andersen, Members of the Agricultural Sub-Committee of the House Appropriations Committee, visited Winnipeg on June 5 and 6. The purpose of the visit was to study first-hand the Canadian meat-type hog. A discussion on U.S.-Canadian wheat marketing problems with the Canadian Wheat Board was held on the second day.

The Canadians extended a very cordial welcome. They appreciated the honor and the opportunity of having a visit from U.S. Congressmen interested in their agricultural development and problems. The U.S. Congressmen proved to be excellent goodwill Ambassadors.

The Congressmen, prior to their visit, had requested no fanfare, nor entertainment be arranged. No press conference was held. When the Winnipeg press learned they were in the city, and were advised the Congressmen did not wish any publicity, the press cooperated, and no mention was made in the newspapers.

The first day was spent at the Canada Packers plant at St. Boniface, across the river from Winnipeg. Officials of the plant, and a Federal livestock inspector arranged a full schedule. They showed the complete process from the arrival of the live hogs at the plant, through the various stages, and finally the packaged meat.

The Congressmen were much impressed with the excellent meat-type hog that Canada has developed, and with the Federal grading system. The incentives given by the packer and the government, apparently are helping to further improve the quality of meat production. The meat cutting demonstration of the Grade "A" and Grade "C" carcasses showing the difference between a lean type and a fat type hog was most impressive. Canada Packers gave the U.S. Congressional party a delightful lunch at their plant.

On the second day the Congressional group held a conference with the Canadian Wheat Board, visited the Grain Exchange, and stopped at a super food market to inspect the type of pork on sale.

Fred J. Rossiter/nd

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Report No. Agr. 71From Ottawa

The meeting with Wheat Board covered a wide range of U.S.-Canadian grain marketing problems. The discussions were friendly, frank, and educational.

The Acting Chairman of the Wheat Board, William C. McNamara, explained that Canada and the U.S. had worked closely together for many years on wheat marketing problems, and that Canada appreciated the tremendous job the U.S. had done in expanding its food production during World War II, and immediate post war period, to meet world needs. Now, however, Canada desires to maintain her normal export markets. The Canadian farmer cannot compete with the U.S. Treasury for these markets.

Mr. McNamara commended the United States for its relief work being done abroad under P.L. 480. He expressed his personal view that Canada would like to work more closely with the U.S. in this type of work. He discussed Canada's great dislike for the U.S. barter sales and tie-in deals. He also mentioned the difficulty Canada had in competing in world markets due to the U.S. double flour subsidy. He especially mentioned the British West Indies at the present time.

Congressman Andersen mentioned incidentally that his district was one of the important turkey raising areas in the United States, and that his farmers were not happy about the Canadian embargo.

Congressman Marshall asked whether Canada was interested in continuing the International Wheat Agreement. Mr. McNamara replied as far as he knew, his government had not taken a position. He believed, however, that the majority of the grain growers would like to see it continue, as they believe it is a stabilizing factor in world wheat prices and trade.

The Congressmen were impressed with the Canadian wheat marketing system established under the Wheat Board, and to learn how well the Canadian farmer supports the system.

The group that visited Winnipeg included:

Congressman Fred Marshall
Congressman H. Carl Andersen
Ross Pope

Skuli Rutford

Gerald Engelman

Fred J. Rossiter
Meade T. Foster

6th District, Minnesota
7th District, Minnesota
Clerk, Appropriations -
Agricultural Sub-Committee
Director of Minnesota Agricultural Extension, St. Paul
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
Agricultural Attaché, Ottawa
U.S. Consul, Winnipeg - Attended meeting with the Wheat Board

Fred J. Rossiter,
Agricultural Attaché.

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